

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 200525 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3887

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4642

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: BIHAR: BY- ELECTION RESULTS.

FOL TEL QUOTED FOR YOU:

1. IN BIHAR THREE BY- ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD IN PAST WEEK. RESULTS ARE GENERALLY BAD NEWS FOR CONGRESS(R). IN TWO LOK SABHA SEATS CONGEALSS(R) RETAINED ONE BY THIN MARGIN OVER REGIONAL HUL/ JHARKHAND PARTY WHILE LOSING OTHER TO SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MADHU LIMAYE IN RACE WHICH SAW CONGRESS(R) RUN A HUMILIATING THIRD PLACE (BEHIND CPI) AND FORFEITING ITS DEPOSIT. IN LONE BIHAR ASSEMBLY BY- ELECTION, CONGRESS(R) RETAINED SEAT (WHICH HAD BEEN VACATED BY UNION MINISTER BHOLA PASWAN SHASTRI) BY ONLY NARROW MARGIN OVER RIVAL CPI.

2. RAJMAHAL LOK SABHA SEAT: J. C. MURMU - CONGRESS(R) - 65,700; A. MURMU - HUL/ JHARKHAND PARTY - 61,000 PLUS MISCELLANEOUS 4,500 VOTES. A SEAT RESERVED FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES,

CONGRESS(R) PERCENTAGE OF VOTE POLLED DECLINED PERCEPTIBLY WHILE TRIBAL- BASED REGIONAL HUL/ JHARKHAND INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. NO OTHER MAJOR PARTIES CONTESTED ELECTION.

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3. BANKA LOK SABHA SEAT: M. LIMAYE - SOCIALIST 111,700;
V. YADAV - CPI - 76,400; MRS. SHAKUNTALA DEVI - CONGRESS(R) -
41,600, PLUS ANOTHER 32,000 SCATTERED VOTES.

4. KORHA ASSAMBLY SEAT: V. RISHIDEO - CONGRESS(R) - 14,900;
P. RISHIDEO - CPI - 12,000; S. PASWAN - SOCIALIST - 7,200.
A SCHEDULED CASTE RESERVED SAI, CONGRESS (R) PERCENTAGE OF
VOTE POLLED DECLINED DRAMATICALLY FROM BHOLA PASWAN SHASE' S
81 PERCENT IN 1972 TO RISHIDEO' S 33 PERCENT.

5. COMMENT: AS STRAWS IN WIND, SIGNIFICANCE OF BY- ELECTIONS
CAN BE EXAGGERATED; HOWEVER, IT SEEMS FAIR TO NOTE FOLLOWING
TRENDS: (1) NOTICEABLE DECLINE IN CONGRESS(R) POPULARITY;
(2) IMPRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT OF BOTH CPI AND SOCIALIST PARTIES;
(3) NO CHANGE IN WEAK POSITIONS OF CONGRESS(O) AND JAN SANGH;
(4) CONTINUING STRENGTH OF TRIBAL HUL/ JHARKHAND PART Y. IN
TERMS OF BIHAR POLITICS, BY- ELECTIONS ARE SEVERE BLOW TO
CHIEF MINISTER PANDEY WHO RAN CAMPAIGNS, PRESSED FOR
NOMINATIONS OF HIS PEOPLE AND REFUSED ORGANIZE ALLIANCE WITH
CPI. FACTIONALISM WITH CONGRESS(R) PROBABLY IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR TO LOSSES BUT IT ALSO APPARENT THAT LEFT-
WING OF CONGRESS(R) WILL BE STRENGTHENED IN ITS PURSUIT
OF MORE COMPLETE AGAUANCE WITH CPI. LIMAYE CAMPAIGN, WHICH
DOOR TO DOOR, FOCUSSED ON INCREASED COST OF LIVING, SHORTAGE
OF FOOD, LACK OF DRINKING WATER AND IRRIGATION FACILITIES.
GORDON

UNQTE MOYNIHAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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